

**Cancer is the  
Number One  
cause of death of  
Americans under  
age 85.**

# Partners...

**A Newsletter for Partners and Providers of Early Detection Works,  
Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening & Detection Program**

## Contents

- Director's Message
- Susan G Komen, an EDW Partner
- Transitions
- American Indian Symposium
- Cervical Cancer Awareness
- Mark Your Calendars

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## Director's Message

The annual Breast and Cervical Cancer Conference April 7-8 in Wichita is sure to be a memorable event. This year many of the sessions will not only interest Early Detection Works providers, but will also be of interest to breast cancer survivors. The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is co-sponsoring the conference and has provided financial support, as well as ideas and suggestions for speakers and topics. The fee for this year's conference is only \$50 and nurses (by request) may receive continuing education credits for their attendance.

Linda Berhansstipanov, MPH, DrPH, CHES, keynote speaker, will also provide an additional concurrent session in the afternoon, "Get on the Path to Breast Health." Sessions on nutrition and cancer, clinical breast exam training, cervical cancer and HPV, Medicaid and Early Detection Works, young survivors, clinical trials and many other topics of interest to EDW providers and those interested in breast or cervical cancer will be offered. There will also be an opportunity for providers to ask questions of the EDW staff. We know you have questions about billing, forms, the payment process or the payment of some procedure codes and not others so all EDW staff will be available to answer your questions in a panel format.

Poster sessions will be offered this year, and we are interested in your project or program, especially if you have a focus on cancer research, outreach methodologies or other topics pertaining to women and health. If you're interested in participating in the poster session, then please call Jan Lyle at our toll free number, 1-877-1368 for information.

Please plan now to attend this exciting conference! The agenda will be mailed to you soon and will provide details on the conference and registration information.

*Janet Neff, Director  
Cancer Prevention and Control Program*

***In fiscal year 2004 (July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004), the  
Early Detection Works program screened over 5,000 Kansas  
women for breast and cervical cancer.***

## Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, An EDW Partner

The Mid-Kansas Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Wichita Race for the Cure® celebrated 15 years of service in 2004. The mission of the Komen Foundation is to eradicate breast cancer through the advancement of research, education, screening and treatment. The Wichita Race for the Cure® started as a Junior League of Wichita project in 1990 and was taken over by the Mid-Kansas Affiliate in 1993.

The Free Mammography Project was started with funds from the first Wichita Race. To date, the Free Mammography Project has provided well over 15,000 mammograms to women and men in Kansas. What started as a project for women in Sedgwick County in 1990 has developed into a nearly statewide program providing services in at least 95 counties in Kansas.

The Mid-Kansas Affiliate is a proud partner of the Early Detection Works program and served on the Capacity Building Committee for KDHE in the early years of the program. The Komen Foundation is a strong advocate for the program nationally and yearly develops Congressional support to increase the federal program funding.

The Mid-Kansas Affiliate provided \$225,000 in grants to organizations and agencies in 2004, most of which are EDW providers. The Affiliate partners with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Via Christi Community Outreach, the Pratt Health Foundation, Kansas Foundation for Medical Care and a large group of local and county health agencies to assure that women and even occasionally men receive the breast health services and education they need. This year the Affiliate has provided funding for 25

breast health and breast cancer programs throughout the state.

The Wichita Race for the Cure® had more than 6,500 participants in 2004 making it by far the largest road race in Kansas. Attending the Race is an uplifting experience, seeing a sea of pink hats worn by more than 300 survivors reminds all who attend that breast cancer does not need to be a death sentence when diagnosed early. The Mid-Kansas Affiliate is served by a local board of directors and a large Race for the Cure® committee.

For more information about the Komen Foundation or the Mid-Kansas Affiliate, go to [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org), or [www.wichitaraceforthe cure.org](http://www.wichitaraceforthe cure.org). For more information on breast health and breast cancer call the Komen Hotline at 1-880-I'M AWARE. *Peggy Johnson, Vice President, Mid-Kansas Affiliate, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation*

## Transitions: Welcome Henri Ménager

We welcome Henri Ménager, MPH, as the new epidemiologist for the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, including Early Prevention Works. He brings extensive experience to EDW, having spent the last six years as the main evaluator of community health interventions of the Office of Health Promotion at KDHE. Henri has more than 15 years experience in public health.

We also want to wish a belated farewell to Paula Gilmore who has accepted a position as the director of nursing for a surgical facility. Additionally, our administrative assistant, Crystal Burgoon, has left to explore other career interests. We wish Paula and Crystal much success in their future endeavors.

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## **American Indian Symposium Details Problems, Goals**



*Virginia Eaves, member of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma and EDW outreach worker, presented on the Early Detection Works program at the American Indian Symposium in Kansas City on November 16-17, 2004.*

There are currently estimated to be 26,000 American Indians in Kansas and, taking into account those who claim a second or third racial or ethnic group also, census data indicate a total of about 47,500 American Indians in Kansas.

According to Dee Ann DeRoin, MD, MPH, who also spoke at the symposium, American Indian women have the second highest mortality rate from cervical cancer of any racial/ethnic group in the U.S. Cervical cancer is largely avoidable through regular Pap testing. The President's Cancer Panel Report on Native Americans (March 2004) stated that this is a population "in which cancer occurs less frequently, but more often is fatal when compared to the rest of the population." Increased access to cancer screening and treatment were recommended, which EDW is working to provide.

The American Indian mortality rate is 1.5 times that of U.S. all races, and 31.6 percent of American Indians live below the poverty level as compared to 13.1 percent for the U.S. all races population. (U.S. Census, 1990)

## **Cervical Cancer Awareness An Ongoing Activity**

While January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, EDW offers free pelvic exams and Pap tests to program-eligible women all year around. It is the success of ongoing screening that has reduced cervical cancer from the number one cancer killer of American women to number 14, now accounting for less than one percent of cancer deaths. The Pap test is probably the most successful cancer-screening tool yet developed. Nonetheless, in 2002, 85 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were diagnosed in Kansas women and 35 Kansas women died of this disease. Yet, as a result of early diagnosis through the Pap test, invasive cervical cancer is almost 100 percent preventable.

**Sixty to 80 percent of invasive cervical cancer cases diagnosed each year occur in women who have not had a Pap test for five years or more.**

Since its origin in October 1995, Early Detection Works (EDW) has provided a total of 20,122 Pap tests for 17,992 women in Kansas. In that time, EDW has diagnosed 16 cases of invasive cervical cancer through these tests and identified 435 precancerous conditions in Kansas women which, when treated in a timely manner, were prevented from developing into deadly invasive cancer. When discovered early, the cure rate for cervical cancer is more than 90 percent.

Several factors increase the risk of developing cervical cancer. These risk factors include a history of multiple sex partners, having a partner who has had multiple partners, or having had sexual intercourse prior to age 16. Having multiple sexual partners increases a woman's chance of contracting human papilloma virus (HPV), a sexually transmitted virus that is the foremost risk factor for cancer of the cervix. HPV is very common and does not always lead to cervical cancer. While there are more than 100 types of HPV, only a few have the potential to cause cancer. (Continued on Page 4)

*(Cervical Cancer, Continued)*

Doctors currently believe that up to 90 percent of cervical cancer is caused by the HPV virus. Additional risk factors for cervical cancer include HIV-AIDS infection or other conditions which compromise the immune system.

Cigarette smoking also increases the risk of cervical cancer. Studies have associated smoking with precancerous changes (dysplasia) in the cervix and with progression to invasive cervical cancer. It is not clear whether this association is the product of the cancer-causing agents in cigarette smoke or whether smoking impairs the immune system. In one study, carcinogenic substances from tobacco were identified in the cervical cells of women who smoke.

Probably as a result of different screening practices, cervical cancer rates vary significantly among different racial and ethnic groups. The cervical cancer rate for white women is about eight

cases per 100,000 U.S. women. For African-American women the cervical cancer rate is about 14 per 100,000 and for Hispanic women about 15 per 100,000. Among Vietnamese women, the cervical cancer rate rises to 43 per 100,000 women. Increased screening followed by appropriate medical treatment for these population groups could lower the rate of invasive cervical cancer.

**Mark Your Calendars for April 7-8!**  
**Breast and Cervical Cancer Conference**  
Jointly Sponsored by  
**Early Detection Works**  
&  
**Mid-Kansas Affiliate**  
**Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer**  
**Foundation**  
**Wichita Hyatt Regency**  
**Registration \$50, CNEs available**  
**Call 1-785-296-1207 for information.**

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